creation and demand generation.for sanitary facilities in houses, schools and for clearner environment, Projects for 587 rural districts have been approved with a target to provide toilets to each household, schools and anganwadis by the end of 2012, *i.e.* within the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. The targets fixed in the 587 projects are provision of 58.25 crore toilets for families Below Proverty Line, 60.55 crore toilets for families above poverty line, 11.77 lakh units for rural schools and 4.2 units for anganwadis.

Financial assistance for upgrading 753 Km. village roads on border belt of Punjab

3211. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal from State of Punjab for sanction of Rs. 200 crore project for upgrading 753 Km. village roads situated on the border belt of Punjab;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in sanctioning of the amount;

(c) whether Prime Minister during his visit to Punjab in December, 2006 accepted the request of the State Government; and

(d) by when the approval financial assistance will be conveyed to State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) During December, 2006 an announcement was made regarding construction/upgradation of about 500 Km. of,rural roads in the border areas of Punjab at an estimated cost of Rs. 200 crore. The roads are to be covered from the border areas districts of Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Gurdaspur and Ferozpur. The Government of Punjab has forwarded a list of roads, but detailed project reports have not been submitted. The PMGSY Phase-VII proposal received from Government of Punjab has ben approved in February, 2008. The entire Phase VII project is for 63 road works covering 763.9 Km. at a cost of Rs. 344.21 crore. This includes 7 proposals covering a length of about 85 Kms. pertaining to Border districts of Amritsar and Tarn Taran. The State Government has since been advised to submit the Detailed Project Reports for upgradation of 415 Km. of rural roads. Funds for the project are released in accordance with the Programme Guidelines. These Guidelines are also given on Website *www.pmgsy.nic.in.*

Construction of houses for homeless poor people

3212. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made in recent years about the total housing needs in the country especially in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to construct 60 lakh houses for homeless poor people by 2008-09; and

(d) if so, the State-wise details of the houses proposed to be built?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per estimation done by the Registrar General of India, based on 2001 Census, the total housing shortage in rural areas